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The Municipal Borough and
Rural District of Wokingham
Joint Public Health Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1968

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Rural District of Wokingham
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W. H. Lee Ltd., Printers, Wokingham.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH
AND THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
WOKINGHAM JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1968. As will be seen from the figures below, the vital statistics show that the Wokingham area maintains its record of being above the average as far as health of the inhabitants is concerned, compared with the rest of the country.

VITAL STATISTICS

The population of both Borough and Rural District has once again increased during the past year, although the estimated figures for mid-1968 show a much smaller increase in the case of the Rural District than usual. Briefly, the population of the Rural District was estimated at 72,230, an increase of only 1,530 over the previous year. Of these, the natural increase, that is, the excess of births compared with deaths in the area, amounted to 830, which means that there were only 700 newcomers to the district. This compares unfavourably with the past few years and is difficult to reconcile with the large numbers of new houses built and presumably occupied. No doubt this can be explained, but at the moment it remains somewhat puzzling. The table below illustrates this point:—

			1966	1967	1968
Mid-year population	...	...	68,100	70,700	72,230
Increase over previous year	...	...	3,010	2,600	1,530
Births	...	...	1,480	1,454	1,411
Deaths	...	...	532	546	581
Natural increase	...	...	948	908	830
Immigrants	...	...	2,062	1,692	700
Birth rate per thousand population			21.7	20.5	19.5

Wokingham Borough also increased, and now has a population of 18,890, an addition of 910. Of these, the natural increase was 178, and newcomers to the Borough amounted to 732. This indicates that a greater number of people moved into the Borough than into the whole of the Rural District, and emphasises the surprisingly low figure mentioned above.

As in the previous year, the birth rate for the combined area shows a decline, following the trend for the rest of the country. The rate per thousand population came to 19.9 births compared with 20.8 in 1967, the individual rate for the Borough being 21.5

and for the Rural District 19.5. These are still well above the figure for England and Wales, which is now 16.9. This is probably due to the comparatively large number of young married couples coming to live in the area. The actual number of live births came to a total of 1,818 and of these, 1,411 were in the Rural District and 407 in the Borough. The infant mortality rate for the year 1968 was exceptionally low, that in the Borough being 7 per thousand live births and in the Rural District, 11. The comparative figure for England and Wales for the past year was 18. I am glad to say that no maternal deaths were recorded in 1968. Too much cannot be read into these figures because of the comparatively small numbers involved, but it still shows that Wokingham is one of the safest places to have a baby. The percentage of illegitimate births came to 6.4 of the total in the Borough, and 4.1 in the Rural District. These figures are much the same as those for the rest of the country

The perinatal mortality rate, which has attracted some attention in recent years, remained reasonably low, and stillbirths and deaths under one week per thousand births came to 20 in the Rural District and 17 in the Borough, both figures being below the national average of 25. This reflects the extra care being taken for the well-being of newly born infants and the value of antenatal clinics. The stillbirth rate, which is similarly important, was also low, being 10 per thousand births in the Borough and 13 in the Rural District, compared with 14 for England and Wales as a whole.

The numbers of deaths in the past year came to 810, which is some increase on the 1967 figure, when numbers were particularly low. Of these, 229 were residents of the Borough and 581 of the Rural District. The crude death rates were 12.1 and 8.0 respectively. These figures, however, have to be adjusted to allow for the composition of the population before they can be compared with the national average of 11.9. After such adjustment the rates were 10.9 for the Borough and 10.5 for the Rural District, which shows that mortality in Wokingham and district is slightly below many other areas. The chief causes of death were as usual, coronary heart disease, cancer and vascular diseases of the nervous system. Lung cancer caused 26 deaths, 4 less than last year. The greater improvement was in the Rural District, where only 16 deaths compared with 23 occurred from this cause, while in the Borough there were 10 deaths compared with 7 in 1967. Little can be deduced from these figures, which are too small to be greatly significant, but the number of deaths from this disease is steadily increasing every year and shows no signs of abatement in the country as a whole. Indeed, it is unlikely that much improvement will occur until smoking becomes a socially unacceptable habit.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Notifications of communicable diseases were fewer in number than in the previous year. Thirty-six cases of dysentery occurred, mainly among children attending infant schools, which is the most susceptible age group. The strict enforcement of hygiene at all schools affected quickly limited the spread of infection and no epidemics ensued. A few sporadic cases among adults occurred, but this is bound to happen, due to the presence of symptomless carriers in the community. Cases of food poisoning were fewer than in 1967, and several of these contracted the illness while abroad. The present fashion for taking holidays abroad and the quickness of air travel undoubtedly lead to many cases arriving in this country already infected. Of the indigenous cases, one was traced to badly cooked sausages and the other was probably derived from contact with a knackers yard.

A new illness might have been introduced into the area when notification was received that certain budgerigars which had been supplied to two primary schools in the district from an infected source in the Midlands might be carriers of psitticosis. Although none of the birds showed symptoms of the disease it was considered the safest plan to request their immediate destruction. Fortunately no human cases ensued.

The possibility of the Hong Kong strain of influenza being introduced into this country caused a certain amount of alarm. Consideration was given to the protective inoculation of essential staff, but in view of the Ministry circular suggesting that old persons, pregnant women and similar categories should be given priority, together with the shortage of vaccine, it was decided not to carry out this procedure. In the event, the expected epidemic did not materialise and there was no disruption of services due to illness.

Only 75 cases of measles were notified, which was very few, even for an off-peak year. This was possibly due to the early protection given by vaccination of children, carried out in the autumn. The full results should be apparent in 1969.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

Propaganda for the prevention of Home Accidents was carried on during the year by means of posters distributed to parishes and schools, together with talks, mainly given by health visitors in conjunction with the County Health Education Adviser. In the schools, the emphasis was on water safety, which, although not strictly a matter of home safety, is nevertheless of great importance, as the tragic death of one school child through drowning demonstrated.

The dangerous practice of putting sample containers of household bleach through letter boxes was taken up with the Home Office. These small bottles were undoubtedly attractive to children, who might easily have drunk the contents. As a result of effective action on the part of the Home Office, this method of distribution was quickly stopped and the manufacturers warned of the danger.

During the year, 1,500 copies of a Home Safety Handbook were received from the publishers and distributed both in the Borough and Rural District. This proved unexpectedly popular in spite of its gloomy cover, and a reprint will be ordered in 1970.

FOOD HYGIENE HANDBOOK

Preliminary arrangements were made during the year with the publishers of the Home Safety Handbook for a similar booklet to be prepared on the subject of food hygiene. This handbook would be a joint publication as before, aimed at encouraging better standards of cleanliness in the preparation, storage and handling of food both by the housewife and members of the catering trade. It is expected that this will be ready early in 1970.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairmen and Members of both Public Health Committees for the support and encouragement given to myself and my colleagues during the year. I must also thank the Chief Public Health Inspectors and all their staff for their continued co-operation and assistance, and express my appreciation of the valuable service given by my secretary.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

I. W. MacKICHAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Shute End,
Wokingham,
Berkshire.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	3,403
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1969	6,074
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1969	£1,078,704
Product of a Penny Rate	£4,329
Population (estimated) mid-year	18,890

LIVE BIRTHS:

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	197	184	381
Illegitimate	10	16	26
Total	207	200	407
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population):			
Actual			21.5
Corrected			21.5
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births			6.4

STILLBIRTHS:

	M	F	Total
Number of Stillbirths	3	1	4
Total Live and Stillbirths			411
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)			10.0

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year):

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	1	2	3
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 live births):			
Legitimate			7.0
Illegitimate			—
Combined			7.0
Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)			7.0
Early Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)			7.0
Perinatal Death Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths)			17.0

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Number of Maternal Deaths	—
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	—

DEATHS (All causes):

	M	F	Total
Number of Deaths	103	126	229
Death Rate (per 1,000 population):			
Actual			12.1
Corrected			10.9

Wokingham Municipal Borough

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease				1968	1967	1966
Measles	...	...	...	28	97	284
Dysentery	...	...	...	15	7	3
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	6	3	15
Whooping cough	...	...	...	2	3	3
Acute encephalitis :						
Infective	...	...	...	1	—	—
Post-infectious	...	...	...	—	—	—
Food poisoning	...	...	...	2	1	—
* Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	1	2	2
* Acute pneumonia	...	...	...	1	1	1
* Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	2	—

* Notification discontinued from 30.9.68.

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group				Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
				M	F	M	F
35-44 years	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
45-54	„	...	...	—	1	—	—
55-64	„	...	...	1	—	—	—
75 and over	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Total (All ages)	...	...	...	1	2	1	—

Wokingham Municipal Borough

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus during the year is as follows:—

DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS:

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	46
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	329

DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS:

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	362
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	324

The number of children and adults who were vaccinated against Smallpox and immunised against Poliomyelitis is as follows:—

SMALLPOX:

Primary Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	343
Re-vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	199

POLIOMYELITIS:

Primary Immunisations	...	...	...	...	...	337
Re-inforcing Immunisations	...	...	...	...	...	625

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WOKINGHAM BOROUGH, 1968.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

Causes of Death	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								
				1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Leukaemia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other malignant neoplasms, etc. ...	25	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	4	5	12
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Diabetes mellitus ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anaemias ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hypertensive disease	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ischaemic heart disease	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Other forms of heart disease	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	12	16
Cerebro-vascular disease ...	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	15
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	32
Influenza ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Pneumonia ...	29	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1
Bronchitis and emphysema	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	21
Asthma ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Appendicitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other diseases of digestive system	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital anomalies	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Motor vehicle accidents ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other accidents ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other external causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total All Causes ...	229	3	—	1	1	3	1	2	11	24	51	132

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER & SURVEYOR.**SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

During the year the Council's main foul drainage pumping station at Toutley has been undergoing reconstruction which includes the provision of much larger pumps, together with standby diesel generators, and it is hoped that the new station will be brought into operation before the end of the current financial year.

With regard to main drainage schemes, great disappointment was experienced when the Ministry refused to allow loan consent for the provision of a foul sewer to serve the Sandy Lane area. However, I am pleased to report that as a result of further representations to the Ministry approval has now been received and it is hoped to complete this work before the end of the current financial year. A draft scheme has been prepared for improving the surface water drainage system of the north eastern area of the town. This has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and at the present time we are awaiting the Ministry's comments.

HIGHWAYS

During the year a number of highway improvements were undertaken but the scheme of greatest significance was that of the One-Way Traffic System in the Town Centre. The scheme has been in operation since the early part of October and at the present time appears to be working satisfactorily and has reduced considerably the number of bottlenecks in the Town Centre.

The private street works scheme for Southlands Road has now been finalised and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

STREET LIGHTING

With the completion of further Estate Development during the year the Borough now has over 2,000 street lighting units in operation and with the exception of four gas lamps these are all Sodium units.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The refuse collection service has continued to operate satisfactorily, a weekly collection being maintained and a special collection from shops and industrial buildings being more widely used.

During the forthcoming year serious consideration will have to be given to the possible use of pulverising plants in an attempt to conserve space at the existing tip. The Council have purchased a new conveyance loading refuse collection vehicle and a new cesspool gully emptying vehicle during this year which has resulted in further improvements to the cleansing service.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

SWIMMING POOL

Due to the inclement weather experienced during the Summer of this last year there was a considerable drop in attendance at the Pool. However, the general standard of amenity and quality of water was maintained.

PLANNING AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT

During the year there was a slight reduction in the number of houses constructed. This is to be expected since most of the designated land is now in the course of development and the review of the Town Programme Map is at present being undertaken by the County Planning Officer in conjunction with the Officers of the Borough Council.

HOUSING

The Council's Shopping Development at Ashridge Road has been completed and it is anticipated that all shops will be occupied and in service by the end of April.

Approval has been received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the provision of Elderly Persons Accommodation at Palmer Path, together with 27 houses on 3 separate sites within the Borough, and work is expected to commence on these schemes before the end of February, 1969.

H. G. BATHURST.

REPORT OF THE HOUSING MANAGER.

During the year the last of the prefabricated bungalows, six in Cross Street, were removed and this reduced the total number of properties under management to 990. A further twelve lock-up garages were erected in Elizabeth Road, bringing the total to 369.

Plans were approved for the building of twenty-seven houses and garages on three sites in Barkham Road, Evendons Lane and Emmbrook Road where sixteen pre-war Council houses were previously erected and also for the development of a scheme for elderly persons off Rose Street near to the Town Centre. This will consist of 29 one and two person flatlets specially suited to the needs of old people, plus accommodation for a Warden.

It was decided that the Council Estates Gardens Competition should be extended and an additional two cups have been kindly donated. This will increase the competition next year by 141, bringing the total gardens being judged to 550.

The Department carried out 89 lettings as follows:—

Applicants re-housed off waiting list	...	...	31
Internal transfers to make best use of accommodation	...	...	42
Exchanges (one out of the Borough)	...	...	4
Slum clearance	...	...	7
Staff tenancies	...	...	5

and during the year 46 tenants gave up their accommodation.

The waiting list showed a decrease, 183 applications registered, compared with 207 last year. However, the needs of the elderly still showed quite clearly, 53 out of 183 being in respect of this type of applicant.

There were 15 applications registered on the "deferred list" for engaged couples.

A total of 1903 orders were issued during the year for repairs to Council dwellings, and in accordance with the Council's policy to bring all the electrical installations up to present day standards, work was started on the re-wiring of fourteen properties in Barkham Road and improvements were carried out to the installations in the Sale Memorial Homes old peoples bungalows.

P. HEDGES.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Although the work of town redevelopment continued during the year, it was with less impetus than previous years. The slowing down of re-building has, in fact, only accentuated the need to complete the work of modern and aesthetic development in place of the eyesores of derelict pieces of land, all within the centre of the town. The completion of this work on offices and shops will make for better standards of hygiene and working conditions for employees. This has already been well illustrated by the completed re-development; and the improvement of standards in new buildings has given satisfaction to the townsfolk and to the staff employed within.

Extensive work was done in relation to bacteriological sampling mainly of cooked meats and dairy cream products. It is refreshing to note that concern is being shown by Parliament that all dairy cream products are not up to the high bacteriological standards that one would expect, and one feels some satisfaction that our efforts within this Borough are helping to highlight a possible bacteriological hazard. With the ever increasing consumption of dairy cream, now reported to be in excess of 10% of the national total milk consumption, it is imperative that high standards be maintained.

Referring to the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963. I have made comments in my narrative report to the Department of Employment and Productivity, and this is found under the separate section of the report.

For the future I foresee a considerable increase in the functions and work of the Department, especially if the town continues to expand as in past years.

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No work has, as yet, been commenced in relation to smoke control areas, and unfortunately I cannot predict when we are likely to go ahead with this very important and progressive step towards clean air. The detailed work involved is so extensive and time consuming over a long period, it has not been possible to divert from our ever present duties, certainly not with the present establishment.

WATER SUPPLY

The mains water supply of the area is provided by the Mid-Wessex Water Company and has remained satisfactory from the bacteriological standards and for its palatability.

The following samples were taken during the year:

Water from the mains supply	...	...	...	13
Water from Martins Swimming Pool	...	...	...	66
Water from Martins Swimming Pool which were unsatisfactory	...	...	...	15

It is of interest to note that of the latter samples only four were from the main pool and paddling pool, the remaining unsatisfactory samples were taken from the footbaths. By sampling from this source it has been possible for steps to be taken to prevent gross contamination spreading to the main pool and paddling pool.

One problem again manifested itself in relation to a well water supply. This was a property previously rented and since sold. The owner has been made aware of the unwholesomeness of the water and advised on the appropriate steps to take to render this position more satisfactory.

MAINS WATER SAMPLE TAKEN FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS:

Chemical Examination	Parts per Million
Ammonia saline	Absent
Ammonia "albuminoid"	0.016
Permanganate value (15 minutes)	0.12
Permanganate value (4 hours)	0.32
Nitrogen from nitrites	Absent
Nitrogen from nitrates	2.5
Chlorine	41
Total solid residue	395
Total hardness (as calcium carbonate)	176
Permanent hardness (as calcium carbonate)	42
Lead	Absent
Iron in solution	Absent
Total iron	Absent
Zinc	Absent
Reaction (pH value)	7.8
Appearance	clear and colourless
Sediment	

Wokingham Municipal Borough

The water was without odour and of satisfactory taste. There is no evidence of pollution from the chemical analysis and the water appears to be satisfactory for the public supply.

RAINFALL

1.

Month	Depth in Inches	Greatest Fall in 24 hours Depth in Inches	Date	No. of days with .01ins. or more	No. of days with .04ins. or more
January ...	2.23	.47	13th	10	10
February ...	1.25	.50	13th	7	6
March ... ..	.73	.20	20th	9	7
April	1.87	.32	17th	13	9
May	2.59	.66	4th	17	12
June	2.62	.65	4th	14	13
July	3.19	.99	11th	10	8
August ...	3.36	1.08	1st	15	11
September ...	5.74	2.26	16th	20	15
October ...	2.34	.48	9th	12	11
November ...	1.93	.60	2nd	12	9
December ...	3.43	.80	18th	11	8
Totals ...	31.28			150	119

Average of 68 years:

25.56 inches.

166.52 days with .01 inches or more.

1968:

150 days with 0.1 inches or more.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

Number of samples of trade effluent taken	4
Number of visits made in connection with trade effluent	12
Number of samples of sewage effluent taken ...	5
Number of visits made following problems and complaints associated with main sewers	115

The types of trade effluent being discharged have not altered and are in the main associated with light industries:—

- e.g. (a) Electronic and printed circuit design and development.
 (b) Plating work in connection with catering and electrical equipment.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

- (c) Manufacturing of food processing machines.
- (d) Construction of bulk containers for dairy, food and farm industries.

The above have entered into trade effluent agreements with this Authority and have satisfactory methods of treatment, so as to ensure neutral effluent discharging into the sewers at all times.

The following are two typical trade effluent samples:—

				Parts per million	Parts per million
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...		76.8	2.08
Albuminoid	...	...	...	254.8	0.16
Nitrogen from nitrites	...	...		Absent	0.02
Nitrogen from nitrates	...	...		9.8	20.1
Permanganate value (3 minutes)				Absent	6.6
Permanganate value (4 hours)	...			Absent	10.8
Biochemical oxygen demand (5 days at 20° C.)	...	...		15	17
Total Solids	...	...	...	2,097	1,416
Solids in suspension—				11	2
Total volatile on ignition	...			11	2
Combined chlorine	...	...		52	140
Reaction (pH value)	...	...		7.4	8.4
Appearance	...	...	...	Pale yellow and some sediment	Pale yellow and slightly cloudy
Odour	...	...	...	slightly musty	slightly musty
Cyanide	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Lead	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Copper	...	...	...	5.0	1.0
Zinc	...	...	...	Absent	0.5
Chromium	...	...	...	Absent	Absent

HOUSING

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications for improvement grants	...	...	...	28
Applications for conversion grants	...	...	...	3
Applications approved, improvement or conversion	...			20
Applications for standard grants	...	...	...	4
Applications approved, standard	...	...	...	4
Applications refused	...	...	...	1
Total number of visits made in respect of applications, inspections and completions during the year	...			89
Total number of housing units included in applications approved	34
Total sum involved in grants paid out during the year				£4,133

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IMPROVEMENT AREAS

Number of houses improved voluntarily in:—

	5 point	3 point
(a) Improvement Area (Housing Act 1964) ...	8	—
(b) Informal Improvement Area ...	33	—

The Council, during the year, continued its policy of promoting the improvement of houses. In general, applications were made for houses built late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and most of the work consisted of building additional single storeys for bathrooms, internal w.c., hot water systems, etc. There has been a marked reduction in the number of applications from the previous year; this may be due to saturation point reached in improving older houses, or to some extent insufficient grant money to meet the ever increasing cost of building. If the latter is the case I anticipate an increase in applications when the increase in grants becomes available.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION ORDERS

During the year a total of 17 Time and Place notices were served in relation to the Housing Act 1957 and 8 properties were subject to Closing Orders.

Seven families have been rehoused from properties with Closing Orders on them.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Again, I am pleased to report that no problem arose from this type of accommodation; this is primarily due to the fact that few properties in the Borough lend themselves to lettings in multiple occupation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year there were 9 site licences for individual caravans.

No problem arose from itinerants and travellers, probably due to the lack of parking space in the area of the Borough.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

FOOD

FOREIGN MATTER AND MOULD

Commodity	Foreign Matter		Mould
	Number		Number
	Home Produced Food	Imported Food	
Milk	—	—	—
Butter	1	—	1
Cheese	—	—	—
Bread	2	—	—
Canned Meat	—	—	—
Cooked Meat	1	—	—
Meat Pies ...	1	—	—
Fish	—	—	—
Fruit	—	4	—
Jam	—	—	—
Vegetables ...	—	—	—
Cereals	1	—	—
Sweets	—	—	—
Confectionery	2	—	—
Other Food	3	3	—
Totals	11	7	1

Number of prosecutions under Section 2	...	...	Nil.
Number of prosecutions under Section 8	...	...	Nil.
Total amount of Fines and Costs imposed	...	...	Nil.

In every case detailed enquiries were made both with the complainant, vendor and manufacturer.

In no case was there need to recommend legal action, although in some cases warning letters were sent to the offending parties. In the other cases informal action went a long way in preventing further and similar infringements occurring.

Examples of food complaints that gave additional interest are given below.

1. Rissoles

A complaint from a purchaser that maggots were on and in the substance of rissoles. Found to be long rice grains that gave the appearance of maggots.

2. Grapefruit Juice

Complaint that juice had a peculiar taste, found on examination that sweetener had been left out of particular consignment, giving rise to bitter taste.

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3. Butter

A marking on and within the substance appeared to show it as an unusual mould formation and detailed analysis confirmed this. Interesting point was that this butter was produced in Normandy, France and was kept under refrigeration. A number shown on the wrapper gave it as being approximately two months old. The number is used as a guide and the manufacturers either add or subtract a given number to give an accurate date.

I was under the impression that the number was intended to guide the purchaser and was the number of the day of packing. **This is not so.**

FOOD PREMISES

In view of the number of shops dealing in a multiplicity of goods there seems little point in identifying the type of food premises and I have recorded the total number of these premises, including licensed premises to be:

170

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING

The work of sampling in this field has continued throughout the year and a total of **97** samples were taken and these are given in the following table:

Sample	No. Taken	No. Unsatisfactory
Sausages (all types)	—	—
Meat pies	1	—
Sliced meats	14	2
Flour confectionery	1	—
Fresh cream	33	17
Synthetic cream	1	—
Milk	28	—
Tinned meat	15	—
Tinned fish	2	—
Others	2	—

UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED/CONDEMNED

				tons	cwts.	lbs.
1.	Meat at slaughterhouses	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Meat at wholesale premises	...	...		10	87
3.	Meat at retail shops	...	...		3	31
4.	Cooked meat and meat products	...	...			8
5.	Canned meats	...	...		6	65
6.	Other canned foods	...	...	2	19	38

Wokingham Municipal Borough

7.	Fish (fresh)	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
8.	Fruit and Vegetables (fresh)	...	...	...	...	...	8	24
9.	Other foods	...	...	...	...	...	1	12
Total							4	12 43

10.	Number of prosecutions under Section 2	...	...	Nil
11.	Number of prosecutions under Section 8	...	...	Nil

SHOPS ACT 1950

All complaints concerning illicit Sunday trading were followed up and dealt with satisfactorily.

This type of legislation is so difficult to deal with and administer when there are so many ambiguities within it. One finds when carrying it out it is conflicting with the needs of the public demand.

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS)
ORDER, 1957

Number of people holding licences:—

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957	...	6
Diseases of Animals (Licensing of Waste Foods Sterilization Plant) Order 1954	... ..	1
Number of inspections carried out, 1957	Order ...	12
Number of infringements found	... ..	—

Of the above only three plants are in constant use and these gave no trouble during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits were made in connection with infectious disease cases, and these visits were primarily to ensure proper isolation, advice and collection of specimens. All cases visited were from small outbreaks of sonnei dysentery and food poisoning, these were mainly with schoolchildren and contact members of their families. Cases also arose from people travelling abroad and contracting mild enteric disorders and then returning to the district.

In no instance did a case cause any serious illness necessitating hospitalisation.

DISINFESTATIONS AND DISINFECTIONS.

In all notified complaints of vermin, e.g. fleas, bed bugs and cases of heavy infestation of flies, disinfestations were carried out.

In cases of notifiable infectious disease disinfectons were carried out to rooms and bedding, etc.

Wokingham Municipal Borough**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.**

There still appears to be no evidence of warfarin resistant rats in the area.

Complaints of wasps' nests, fleas, flies and ants were dealt with by the Department.

Actual visits are tabulated under the appropriate headings at the end of my report.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive trade establishments within the District.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

(Extract of Report sent to H.M. Factory Inspectorate).

REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION

Work in relation to registration and inspection continued throughout the year, again there was less emphasis as against the previous years since the introduction of the Act. Re-construction work is still continuing within the town and although the rate has slowed down there is a marked improvement in the working conditions for many of the staff, compared with four years ago.

The Department still finds the lack of continuity with registration and re-registration as employers move into new premises. Again, it is suggested that more publicity be given nationally to the obligation, and perhaps the Department of Employment and Productivity could consider the printing of some new sets of posters for local authorities to use as reminders to employers. A considerable amount of time is still spent in following-up registrations, when we could in fact be doing inspections and re-inspections.

OPERATION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE ACT

Little difficulty was experienced in the operations of the Act; occasionally one has to meet the challenge of a "smart aleck" who thinks he can get round the obligations of the Act. This was encountered in relation to one or two employers insisting on their staff becoming self-employed, and you may recall we sent you details of this practice which is to be deplored and gives no security to staff, besides depriving them of proper facilities. In other instances some employers have accepted some obligations under the Act and have refused to accept others. This has been highlighted by the lack of adequate means of heating or facilities for staff to warm themselves, especially in butchers, greengrocers and fruiterers.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

One has found that in new shops where space is at a premium adequate heating facilities are not usually found on the ground floor and although employers provide means of warming, say in a staff room, employees cannot often leave the shop for long enough to use this facility. This has been overcome, in some instances, by meeting an employer or his representative and coming to some satisfactory agreement on the future siting of heating facilities on or in the shop floor areas.

Nevertheless, the arguments relating to deterioration of goods is being used and misused and the employees are suffering as a result.

ACCIDENTS

Again, it is pleasing to report that in no case where an accident was investigated, was there any need to instigate legal proceedings. Those accidents that did arise were not the result of defective equipment or machinery, but usually occurred as a result of misuse or lack of care on the part of the person involved.

One interesting accident which may have been more serious was due to a cylinder of CO₂ blowing off at the valve. Although at the time of writing this report there is still a possibility of private action being taken against the employer, the department found that the equipment was not defective as to have caused this "blow off", and how it really happened still remains an enigma. You will recall that we had a verbal discussion on this matter.

Of course one can only refer to those accidents reported, and I am still convinced that many accidents are not being reported either by the fear of prosecution or by sheer ignorance of the employers' obligations to do so. As has been said in the past, little can be gained by keeping statistics, if a large percentage are not in fact recorded. More publicity needs to be given to this matter and possibly it can be tied in with those recommendations referred to in item heading number one.

PROSECUTIONS

No action was taken under this heading although a number of warning letters were sent, and in most cases it was found that the employers were playing a "game of brinkmanship" and usually complied with the requirements when the threat of prosecution was seriously put to them. Possibly the time will soon come when prosecutions will have to be taken promptly rather than allowing some employers flippantly to ignore their obligations.

Finally, we all wish to thank you for your assistance on relevant matters during the year 1968.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

(a) REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	10	79	4
Retail shops	7	120	23
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	—	4	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	11	5
Fuel storage depots	—	1	—
Totals	19	215	34

Total number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises under the Act	141
--	-----

(b) ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found						
4	Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	1
5	Overcrowding		...	...	...	...	—
6	Temperature	...	...	...	...	...	3
7	Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	—
8	Lighting	...	...	...	...	...	—
9	Sanitary conveniences		...	...	...	...	—
10	Washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	2
11	Supply of drinking water		...	...	...	...	—
12	Clothing accommodation		...	...	...	...	5
13	Sitting facilities	...	...	...	...	...	—
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)		...	...	...	...	—
15	Eating facilities	...	...	...	...	...	—
16	Floors, passage and stairs	...	...	...	...	...	1
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	...	...	...	...	...	—
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	...	...	...	...	...	—
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	...	...	...	...	...	—
23	Prohibition of heavy work	...	...	...	...	...	—
24	First Aid	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Other matters	...	...	...	...	...	3
							—
					Total	...	16

(c) REPORTED ACCIDENTS

Workplace	Number Reported		Total No. Investigated	Action Recommended			
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice	No action
Offices	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail shops	-	3	3	-	-	1	2
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	-	2	2	-	1	1	-
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	5	5	-	1	2	2

(d) ANALYSIS OF REPORTED ACCIDENTS

	Offices		Retail Shop	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering Establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Machinery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transport	-	-	-	-	-	-
Falls of persons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	-	-	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Struck by falling object	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	-	-	1	-
Electricity	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	-	-	3	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified	-	-	-	-	-	-

Wokingham Municipal Borough

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no licensed premises within the Borough.

KNACKER'S YARD

There still remains a licensed yard within the district and this has continued to operate in a satisfactory manner, and there have been no complaints regarding this activity. Little killing is done on the premises; most of the carcasses are brought in from outlying farms and dressed and cut on the premises.

SWIMMING POOL

The Council operate a pool, including a toddlers pool. During the summer months a total of 66 samples were taken, 51 showing satisfactory results.

The unsatisfactory samples were due to excessively warm weather and were quickly remedied.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

These have continued to remain satisfactory with no serious problems from pollution. The Public Health Inspectors do liaise with the Officers of the Thames Conservancy when there are signs of any pollution, and all problems have been resolved on an informal basis.

PETROLEUM ACT AND REGULATIONS

Number of retail premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of other premises licensed for storage including the storage of substance containing petroleum spirit						15
Number of tests carried out, tanks	...	...	...			6
Number of tests carried out, service pipes	...	...				14
Number of inspections carried out	...	...	...	...		22

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The main problems that have arisen were due to the burning of rubbish in the open and from the burning off of residual parts of old cars at a local scrap yard, prior to the crushing of the metal. Occasional complaints arose from garden bonfires.

With only a handful of complaints a great deal of time is spent in making observations and dealing with the people who are responsible, and with many of these complaints one finds it in the main just ignorance of the law or inconsideration for others' comfort.

No detailed work has been possible for the implementation of smoke control areas.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

Approval of plans has been given to the following and those cases where there was a possibility of legal action are shown below :—

1. Dark and black smoke	Number of contraventions recorded	2
	(a) successful prosecutions ...	—
	(b) unsuccessful prosecutions ...	—
2. Furnaces (Section 3)	(a) notifications received ...	5
	(b) applications for prior approval	5
	(c) number of cases in which alterations were required	—
3. Grit and dust emissions (Section 5) (Section 6)	(a) number of contraventions	—
	(b) type of plant involved ...	—
	(a) number of plans submitted	5
	(b) number of cases in which alterations were required	3
	(c) number approved	5
4. Height of chimneys (Section 10)	(a) number of plans submitted showing new chimneys ...	5
	(b) number of cases in which alterations were required	3
	(c) number approved	5
	(d) number of chimneys erected not complying with the approved plans	—
	(e) number of chimneys erected outside the control of Section 10	—

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

A number of problems manifested themselves during the year and most emanated from the factory estate within the Borough, especially in relation to one firm engaged in bulk tank manufacture for the dairy industry, and in another some extraction machinery for air conditioning.

The former problem still remains unresolved, and I feel is likely to be, unless the factory is moved altogether. Unfortunately, the factory is fairly new, and the problem has been further aggravated by the development of a private residential estate along its boundary.

There has been a marked reduction in the use of pneumatic drills without mufflers, due to the vigilance of the Department.

Total number of complaints received	6
Total number investigated	26

A sound meter is part of the Department's equipment.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960 — SECTION 1.

	Industrial	Commercial	Domestic	Total
Number of nuisances confirmed	3	22	1	26
Number of nuisances remedied informally	2	22	1	25
Number of abatement notices under Section 1 ...	—	—	—	—
Number of nuisance orders under Section 1 ...	—	—	—	—

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING
MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Six monthly sampling of the following materials were taken for analysis from a large bedding manufacturer within the Borough:—

Down	Feathers and Down	Down and Feathers
Sisal	Unused Cotton Felt	Duck and Poultry Feathers
Coir Fibre	Feathers	Curled Poultry Feathers

All were satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Two licences have been issued under this Act.

RENT ACT, 1957

Again no work was done under this legislation and the Act appears to serve no useful purpose.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Primary inspections (houses)	...	...	...	...	12
Primary inspections (others)	...	...	...	...	11
Revisits re: above	...	...	...	...	20
Moveable dwellings (sites)	...	...	...	...	5
Infectious diseases and disinfection	...	...	...	...	48
Places of public entertainment	...	...	...	...	5
Offices	...	...	...	...	—
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	2
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	7
Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	8
Watercourses and ditches	...	...	...	...	62
Drainage (including trade effluents)	...	...	...	...	98
Sewage and drainage disposal	...	...	...	...	56
Dirty and verminous premises	...	...	...	...	4
Dirty and verminous persons	...	...	...	...	—
Insect infestations	...	...	...	...	42
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	28

Wokingham Municipal Borough

Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fairgrounds	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Flooding	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
(b) HOUSING ACTS							
Houses (primary inspections)			...	...	...	...	30
Re-visits above	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous (including improvement grants)						39 +	89
(c) FACTORIES ACT							
Factories (including powered and non-powered factories)							
						and Building Sites	10
Outworkers premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(d) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT							
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Fishmongers and Poulterers			...	...	...	...	22
Greengrocers and Fruiterers			...	...	...	...	12
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Confectioners (including flour, cake and sugar)						...	10
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Cafes and Restaurants			...	...	...	...	28
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Street food vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Milk premises and sampling			...	...	...	...	10
Ice cream premises and sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Knacker's yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food wholesalers	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Food inspection—meat and other foods	...	...				...	38
Bacteriological sampling of meat and other foods						...	61
(e) SHOPS ACT (1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
(f) OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963							141
(g) RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951							3
(h) CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(i) NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960			...	...	...	...	29
(j) PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS	...	...				...	51
(k) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(l) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949						...	912
(m) BETTING, GAMING & LOTTERIES ACT, 1964	...	...				...	1

Wokingham Municipal Borough

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	63	12	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	4	—	—
TOTAL	82	24	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp'tr (4)	By H.M. Insp'tr (5)	
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage to floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	—	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not inclu- ding offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	5	1	—	—

OUTWORKERS

There are no registered outworkers in the Borough.

JOHN B. BOWDEN.

The Rural District of Wokingham

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	40,828
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1969	21,800
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1969	£3,318,851
Product of a Penny Rate	£13,600
Population (estimated) mid-year	72,230

LIVE BIRTHS:

	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	699	654	1,353
Illegitimate ...	35	23	58
Total	734	677	1,411
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population):			
Actual			19.5
Corrected			18.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births			4.1

STILLBIRTHS:

	M	F	Total
Number of Stillbirths	8	11	19
Total Live and Stillbirths			1,430
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)			13.0

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year):

	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	7	5	12
Illegitimate ...	1	2	3
Total	8	7	15
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 live births):			
Legitimate			8.9
Illegitimate			51.7
Combined			11.0
Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)			8.5
Early Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)			7.0
Perinatal Death Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births) ...			20.0

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Number of Maternal Deaths	—
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths) ...	—

DEATHS (All causes):

	M	F	Total
Number of Deaths	280	301	581
Death Rate (per 1,000 population):			
Actual			8.0
Corrected			10.5

The Rural District of Wokingham

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	1968	1967	1966
Measles	47	1084	366
Dysentery	21	75	181
Scarlet fever	9	24	19
Whooping cough	62	80	15
**Infective jaundice	1	—	—
Acute meningitis	1	—	—
Acute encephalitis:			
Infective	—	—	—
Post-infectious	—	1	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	1	1	—
Food poisoning	5	18	8
*Puerperal pyrexia	2	2	2
*Acute pneumonia	2	2	—
*Erysipelas	—	—	2

- * Notification discontinued from 30.9.68.
- ** Notification required from 15.6.68.

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
10-14 years	2	1	—	—
20-24 „	1	—	—	1
25-34 „	—	1	—	2
35-44 „	1	2	—	—
55-64 „	2	1	—	—
65-74 „	2	—	—	—
75 and over	1	—	—	—
Total (All Ages) ...	9	5	—	3

The Rural District of Wokingham

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus during the year is as follows:—

DIPHThERIA/TETANUS:

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	247
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1120

DIPHThERIA/WHOOPIng COUGH/TETANUS:

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1387
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1297

The number of children and adults who were vaccinated against Smallpox and immunised against Poliomyelitis is as follows:—

SMALLPOX:

Primary Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1200
Re-vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	...	627

POLIOMYELITIS:

Primary Immunisations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1381
Reinforcing Immunisations	...	...	...	...	...	...	2197

The Rural District of Wokingham

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT, 1968.

Causes of Death	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								
				1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other tuberculosis, incl. late effects	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	6	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	15
Leukaemia	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	18	—
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes mellitus	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other endocrine etc. diseases	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anaemias	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of blood, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3
Hypertensive disease	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ischaemic heart disease	122	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	18	40	57
Other forms of heart disease	23	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	5	16
Cerebro-vascular disease	93	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	15	65
Other diseases of circulatory system	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	17
Influenza	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Pneumonia	57	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	4	42
Bronchitis and emphysema	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	11	14
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peptic ulcer	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of liver	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of digestive system	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases genito-urinary system	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital anomalies	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes of perinatal mortality	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Motor vehicle accidents	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other accidents	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other external causes	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total All Causes	581	12	3	3	7	12	20	72	134	302		

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER TO THE COUNCIL.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Work on the extension of the Wargrave Sewage Disposal Works and the sludge pressing plant has been substantially completed.

During the year the first phase of the remedial works to the balancing tanks and sludge digestion tanks at Marsh Farm S.D. Works to increase their operational efficiency has been carried out.

Following the construction of the Arborfield Works early in 1966 the Council have continued the provision of foul drainage in this area and with the completion of the Walden Avenue, Church Lane extension, have drained a further 80 properties.

The reconstruction of the Pinewood Pumping Station made necessary by an extension to the Easthampstead Park S.D. Works, to which it discharges, has been commenced.

The Bath Road Pumping Station which serves Twyford and Charvil has been modernised and its pumps renewed to meet future requirements.

During the year Phase I of the California Caravan Site has been largely completed, which includes the provision of main drainage facilities which will also serve the adjacent Holiday Centre now being redeveloped, and eventually further properties in Nine Mile Ride and Warren Lane.

A mobile sewer jetting unit was purchased to provide an efficient method of sewer cleaning and dealing with blockages.

Design work has been undertaken on the Reading Road, Winnersh and the Wargrave Road, Twyford sewers to overcome surcharging.

Preliminary investigation has been carried out to ascertain the most economic method of draining the Hare Hatch, Knowl Hill and Crazies Hill areas, Wargrave.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE.

Owing to the decision of the Ministry to hold a local inquiry into the Redhatch Drive, Earley (Phase 1) and Maiden Erleigh Lake (Phase II) Schemes it was not possible to commence this work in 1968.

Similarly, contractual difficulties prevented a start being made on the Crockhamwell Road surface water sewer this year.

Work on the roads and sewers to serve Phase I of the Gorse Ride Housing Development enabled the stream between Nine Mile Ride and Barkham Ride to be culverted and linked with the existing system in Nash Grove Lane.

D. J. RICHARDS.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING OFFICER

Details of the various development proposals considered during 1968 are given below, together with the progress of building in the various parishes.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED:

Outline planning applications	...	...	...	...	234
Detailed development plans for housing	...	...	...	...	126
Detailed plans relating to business premises, alterations and additions to houses, large garages, vehicular accesses, etc.	...	...	...	...	458
Advertisements	...	...	...	...	32
Industrial buildings	...	...	...	...	18
Local Authority Development	...	...	...	...	23
Schools	...	...	...	...	31
Working of minerals	...	...	...	...	4
Development by Statutory Undertakings	...	...	...	...	13
Proposals requiring approval under Building Regulations only (permitted development)	...	...	...	...	665
					1,604

(1967 Total, 1,613).

PRIVATE BUILDING.

The number of houses completed in 1968 and under construction on 31st December 1968 in the various parishes is as follows:—

				Completed	Under Construction
Arborfield	...	...	...	2	—
Barkham	...	...	...	8	6
Earley	...	...	...	8	3
Finchampstead	...	...	...	40	16
Hurst	...	...	...	2	1
Remenham	...	...	...	1	1
Ruscombe	...	...	...	—	—
Shinfield	...	...	...	96	31
Sonning	...	...	...	2	—
Swallowfield	...	...	...	5	1
Twyford	...	...	...	57	45
Wargrave	...	...	...	51	32
Winnersh	...	...	...	13	14
Wokingham Without	...	...	...	138	16
Woodley	...	...	...	338	81
				761	247

Local Authority dwellings completed were 185.

The Rural District of Wokingham

The number of new houses completed in the year was almost 300 more than in 1966 when the total was much below the average for the past 10 years.

There was a substantial increase in Finchampstead with estate development on backland in Kiln Ride and Pine Drive and in School Green, Shinfield, where an estate of 125 houses is under development by New Ideal Homesteads Ltd.

The same Company have now commenced an estate of 126 houses off Duffield Road, Woodley, and this, together with an increase in the rate of building on the South Lake Estate will result in a much larger number of completions in Woodley during 1969. It is also anticipated that a start will soon be made on an estate of 192 houses in Colemansmoor Road.

In Twyford and Wargrave, house completions will be about the same as in 1968, but in Wokingham Without, as available land within the area allocated for development in the Crowthorne Town Map is almost exhausted, there will be a marked reduction.

In addition to new private houses approximately 1000 other building jobs were completed including University and research buildings, factory extensions, shop premises and a variety of alterations and additions to private dwellings.

G. R. TWEEN.

The Rural District of Wokingham

REPORT OF THE HOUSING MANAGER

Seventy-two dwellings at King Street Lane, Winnersh, were completed during the year, and the remainder of the development (149 dwellings) will be taken over during early 1969.

Work is scheduled to commence at Gorse Ride, Finchampstead during 1969 and this scheme of 172 dwellings is due for completion in early 1970.

Analysis of houses owned by the Rural District Council of Wokingham as at 1st December, 1968:—

			Built		Com- pleted	Under construc- tion	Approved	Total
			Pre-1939	1944	Post-War			
Arborfield	...	...	38	2	59	—	—	99
Barkham	...	...	8	—	14	—	—	22
Earley	...	...	4	—	47	—	—	51
Finchampstead	...	...	25	—	42	—	403	470
Hurst	...	...	22	—	26	—	—	48
Remenham	...	...	—	—	8	—	—	8
Ruscombe	...	...	31	—	76	—	—	107
Shinfield	...	...	56	—	355	—	—	411
Sonning	...	...	34	—	48	—	—	82
Swallowfield	...	...	40	2	25	—	—	67
Twyford	...	...	36	—	124	—	—	160
Wargrave	...	...	46	—	115	—	—	161
Winnersh	...	...	20	—	111	149	—	280
Wokingham Without	...	...	15	2	73	—	—	90
Woodley	...	...	25	2	628	—	—	655
			400	8	1,751	149	403	2,711

Annual Review of Waiting List:

				1967	1968
Arborfield	...	...	...	49	37
Barkham	...	...	...	10	5
Earley	...	...	...	37	31
Finchampstead	...	...	...	23	15
Hurst	...	...	...	18	14
Remenham	...	...	...	13	8
Ruscombe	...	...	...	13	10
Shinfield	...	...	...	93	80
Sonning	...	...	...	13	13
Swallowfield	...	...	...	28	23
Twyford	...	...	...	68	64
Wargrave	...	...	...	34	33
Winnersh	...	...	...	72	61
Wokingham Without	...	...	...	68	68
Woodley	...	...	...	73	65
				612	527

W. BULLOUGH.

The Rural District of Wokingham

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WET SCAVENGING

(a) COLLECTION.

As in the previous year, the fleet of vehicles operating this service has been maintained at six, with a seventh in reserve. The two older vehicles became very unreliable and were taken off the road at the end of the year. The following is the statistical information regarding work carried out with the vehicles, compared with the previous year:—

	1967	1968
No. of vehicle hours worked	8,325	8,942
No. of miles travelled ...	68,226	71,102
No. of gallons of fuel used	6,819	7,034
No. of cesspools emptied ...	8,299	8,338
Length of hose used (ft.) ...	881,030	1,009,310
Sewage disposed of (gals.)	13,495,975	14,006,660

(b) DISPOSAL.

The following table shows the amount of cesspool sewage, in gallons, disposed of at the various sites, compared with the previous year:—

Site	1967	1968
Gipsy Lane	374,225	636,900
Colemans Moor	3,727,125	3,990,960
Winnersh Farm	192,000	859,875
Other sites	966,575	506,900
Into manholes at:		
Wargrave sewers ...	2,387,125	2,213,300
Shinfield sewers ...	1,409,175	2,071,875
Arborfield Works ...	4,439,750	3,781,125
	<hr/> 13,495,975 <hr/>	<hr/> 14,060,935 <hr/>

In addition to the above figures, 388,800 gallons of sludge were taken from Sewage Works which were incapable of treating the sludge. The disposal of this created problems at the site at Winnersh which were not overcome at the end of the year. The general increase in the total amount of sewage from cesspools disposed of is no doubt accounted for by the wet weather during the year.

CONNECTIONS TO MAIN DRAINAGE

No. of Notices sent to householders stating that the sewer was available for connection (Arborfield main drainage scheme)	89
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The Rural District of Wokingham

No. of properties connected to public sewer	128
Arborfield parish	...	...	80
Barkham parish	...	...	8
Finchampstead parish	...	...	3
Swallowfield parish	...	...	26
Wokingham Without parish	...	...	11

There has been a distinct slowing down in the amount of main drainage done compared with previous years. Of the 128 properties, 9 were dealt with by means of the Council's deferred payment scheme.

DRY SCAVENGING

(a) COLLECTION.

During the year two Duel Tipping refuse collection vehicles were replaced by two 35 cub. yd. S & D Pakamatic refuse collectors. Ten vehicles were routed to deal with normal collections, one older vehicle dealt with bulky and extra collections of refuse, whilst another was used as a reserve vehicle. The following is a summary of the work done by the collection fleet:—

Collection vehicles

	1967	1968
Total working time (hours)	22,323	22,511
Miles travelled	106,883	96,932
Fuel used (gals.)	13,415	14,469
Oil used (pts.)	5,044	6,016
Total refuse collected		
(cub. yds.)	174,817	183,514
M.P.G.	7.80	6.58
Refuse dealt with per gal.		
fuel used (cub. yds.)	14.50	13.68

(b) DISPOSAL.

Only one site was used for disposal by controlled tipping. Two tipping lorries, a bulldozer, caterpillar shovel and tractor mounted shovel are employed at the tip. This equipment is also used for dealing with accumulations of sludge, etc., on cesspool emptying sites.

In addition to the 183,500 cubic yards of refuse brought into the tip by the Council's vehicles, approximately 20,000 cub. yds. were accepted from private contractors for disposal. A sum of £1,800 was collected for disposal charges.

WATER SUPPLY

Eight samples of well water were taken during the year, of which five proved satisfactory and three unsatisfactory. The latter supplies were dealt with by one being connected to the public mains and the other two having chlorination plants installed.

The Rural District of Wokingham

Two samples of water from swimming pools proved satisfactory.

Water is supplied in the majority of the area by the Thames Valley Water Board. In two parishes, Finchampstead and Wokingham Without, the statutory undertakers are the Mid-Wessex Water Company. Two small areas in the Rural District have no piped supply available. One, at the junction of the River Loddon with the Thames, is used primarily for summer residence, being subject to flood. Bacteriological samples from the wells in the gravel subsoil of that area have always proved satisfactory. The other area without a piped supply is the Aston Ferry sector of Remenham parish, where the isolated dwellings and farmhouses obtain their water from wells into the chalk, which have similarly given satisfactory results on testing.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND FOOD HYGIENE
REGULATIONS

INSPECTIONS.

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Milk Delivery Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Bakers' and Confectioners' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Canteens and Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Confectioners' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Grocers' and General Provisions Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	447
Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Stalls and other Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fruiterers' and Greengrocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year:—

43 lbs. Pork (English)	2 Turkeys (weight 25 lbs.)
30 lbs. Beef (English)	16 Chickens (weight 54 lbs.)
93½ lbs. Beef (Argentine)	12 lbs. Butter
53 lbs. Pig Livers (Imported)	1,262 tins of various foodstuffs
10 lbs. Lamb Livers (English)	2,517 pkts. frozen foodstuffs
4 lbs. Ox Kidneys (Imported)	4 x 12 lbs. tins Cooked Ham
5½ lbs. Bacon	2 x 6 lb. tins Corned Beef.

The number of complaints received regarding unsound food totalled 48—again an increase on the previous year—and a considerable amount of the Inspectors' time was spent on investigation and consultation with shopkeepers and wholesalers.

The Rural District of Wokingham

In four cases it was found necessary to report the facts to the Committee, and warning letters were sent to the retailers and wholesalers concerned. These cases included foreign bodies, i.e., a clothes peg in a quart bottle of cider; a steel nut in a carton of Yogurt; and a rubber bung in a tin of luncheon meat.

The usual trouble with mould growth in pies occurred in the month of October, but this was due mainly to the shopkeepers failing to maintain coding and proper rotation of stock.

HEALTH EDUCATION

In conjunction with the Central Council for Health Education a film show and talk were arranged at a large bakery at Woodley. This dealt mainly with training and supervision during all stages of food preparation.

POULTRY INSPECTION.

Only one establishment is engaged full time on the slaughter and dressing of poultry. These premises, at Twyford, are unusual in that the birds are dressed specifically for Pakistani immigrants. The premises are well conducted and no complaints were received during the year.

A weekly inspection is carried out and approximately 1,800 birds are slaughtered per week, with a rate of condemnation running between 1%—2% of the total kill.

BRUCELLOSIS.

No samples of raw milk were examined for the presence of brucella abortus during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The number of persons holding licences under the above Act remains at 23, and the number of inspections carried out totalled 43.

No complaints were received regarding operation of plant, etc., but additional visits were made and advice given during the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. As regards the nature of the business conducted, the premises and plant were found to be reasonable and the only matters dealt with included drainage, pollution of ditches and rodent control.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Twelve licences were issued under the above Act, a decrease of three from the previous year, and 31 inspections were made. The general condition of the establishments was satisfactory, with one exception. In this case the owner agreed to the construction of new kennels and outbuildings and a complete reorganisation of the establishment.

The Rural District of Wokingham

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

The following shows the action taken during the year under the above programme:—

(1) Number of properties represented as unfit for human habitation during the year	30
(2) Number of houses demolished not in Clearance Areas as a result of formal procedure under Sections 16 or 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	12
(3) Number of unfit houses closed under Section 16 (4), 17 (1), and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	20
Number of persons displaced	30
Number of families	13
(4) Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied:	
After informal notice by Local Authority	15

HOUSING ACT 1964 (PART II).

Compulsory improvement of dwellings:

Number of representations received	1
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HOUSING ACT 1957 (SECTIONS 2 AND 3).

A review has been undertaken of properties listed under Sections 2 and 3 of the Act where statutory action is likely to take place, and the following table sets out, parochially, the position existing in October, 1968:—

Arborfield	7	Sonning	Nil
Barkham	7	Swallowfield	9
Earley	2	Twyford	Nil
Finchampstead	26	Wargrave	8
Hurst	1	Winnersh	6
Remenham	Nil	Wokingham Without	31
Ruscombe	Nil	Woodley	1
Shinfield	2		

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects:—

Inspections	159
Re-inspections	225
Overcrowding	5
Miscellaneous	81

The Rural District of Wokingham

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The position regarding the number of caravans in the district is substantially the same as previously. The Council have undertaken the improvement of their caravan site at California, Finchampstead. By the middle of next year this site, which will be furnished to Ministry model standards, will be available for 80 caravans.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

No formal action under the above Act was taken during the year. A number of complaints have been dealt with, and although in most cases it was considered that statutory action would not be successful, it has been possible to deal with the problems satisfactorily.

CLEAN AIR ACT

No formal action was taken under the above Act, apart from Notices received under Section 3 (1) regarding installations of furnaces to which that Section applies.

Numerous complaints were received regarding bonfires, which were dealt with informally.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 50

One burial was undertaken during the year, being that of a still-born child found in the River Thames at Sonning.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses registered in the Rural District.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Twenty-two dealers are registered under the above Act and 10 entries in the register were deleted during the year owing to discontinuation of business or failure to re-register.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963
ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED
PREMISES BY WORKPLACE:

Class of Workplace							No. of Persons Employed	
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	981
Retail Shops		...	...	...	...	...	569
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses						...	119	
Catering Establishments open to the Public						...	100	
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fuel Storage Depots			...	...	...	...	7
							<hr/> 1,804 <hr/>	
							Males	... 856
							Females	... 948

The Rural District of Wokingham

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS:

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during year
Offices	6	63	18
Retail Shops ...	8	131	72
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	1	5	1
Catering Establishments, open to the Public, Canteens ...	—	12	7
Fuel Storage Depots	1	3	2
Totals	16	214	100

SANITARY MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION

The problem regarding smells from liquid sewage, referred to in last year's report, is still causing concern. Liquid sludge from sewage works is being disposed of in fields adjoining houses, which gives rise to justifiable complaints, and should not be tolerated in this day and age.

PEST CONTROL

No. of complaints received:							
Rat infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	635
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Other pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
No. of properties found infested with:							
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	848
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Other pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
No. of treatments carried over from previous year							
							19
No. of properties treated for:							
Rat infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	940
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Other pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
No. of infested properties where advice has been given							
							67
No. of inspections for all purposes							
							3,026
No. of re-inspections carried out							
							1,004
No. of new contracts taken up				16	Value	£191	
No. of existing contracts renewed				79	Value	£949	
No. of contracts lost				20	Value	£215	

The contracts lost were due to there being no further infestation.

The Rural District of Wokingham

SUMMARY OF OTHER INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	573
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	660
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	966
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Licensed Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pig Sties and Poultry Runs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Hairdressers and Barbers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Number and nature of complaints dealt with:								
Unwholesome food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Accumulations of rubbish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Unsatisfactory water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Overflowing cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Defective drainage systems	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Flooding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Pollution of ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Unauthorised caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Smoke nuisance, including burning of trade refuse and bonfires	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Smells—Factory fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dry Cleaners' exhaust	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chicken manure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pig manure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Compost heaps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sludge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Contravention of Food Hygiene Regulations—vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

The Rural District of Wokingham

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	99	87	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	102	89	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp'tr	By H.M. Insp'tr	
Sanitary Conveniences : Unsuitable or Defective	5	5	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	5	—	—	—

The Rural District of Wokingham

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-Workers in Aug. List required by Section 133(1) (c)	No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for Failure to supply Lists	No. of Instances of work in Unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel: Making, etc.	17	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	17	—	—	—	—	—

D. EVANS

